2/24/67 P. 21

Story of an Oswald-Ferrie Link Shown by Archives to Be False

By NAN ROBERTSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—Documents in the National Archives disclosed today that Jack S. Martin of New Orleans, who linked Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie, had admitted to the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that his story had been a lie.

Mr. Ferrie, who was found dead yesterday in his bed, was a major figure in an investigation by the New Orleans district attorney, James Garrison, of an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The district attorney has promised sensational disclosures and arrests. He insists the alleged plot was hatched in New Orleans.

Mr. Martin told Mr. Garrison shortly after the assassination that Mr. Ferrie had known Oswald, that he had trained him in the use of rifles with telescopic sights and that Mr. Ferrie had visited Dallas about two weeks before the assassination of the President by Oswald on Nov. 22, 1963.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Martin swore in separate statements to F. B. I. and Secret Service agents that his story had been a figment of his imagination.

On the night of Nov. 29, 1963, two Secret Service agents, Anthony E. Gerrets and John W. Rice, interviewed Mr. Martin "at length" in his apartment in New Orleans.

Their report states:

"Martin, who has every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from 'telephonitis' when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking bouts that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about David William Ferrie being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald.

"He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrie had been his squadron commander. Martin stated that Ferrie was well known to him, that he recalled having seen rifles in Ferrie's home and also recalled that Kohlman (who had been a newspaper reporter previously) had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol.

"Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind he had telephoned Herman S. Kohlman and had told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination."

The Secret Service men also reported that they had learned that F.B.I. agents had talked with Mr. Martin three days earlier and that he had admitted that the information he had furnished Assistant District Attorney Kohlman was a figment of his imagination and that he had made up the story after reading the newspapers and watching television.

Their reports and others are contained in 16 pages of information about Mr. Ferrie relating to the Warren Commission investigation into the Kennedy assassination. About 40 more are still classified, but the National Archives has asked the F.B.I. to clear those as well.

The 16 pages that came to light today were declassified by the F.B.I. in September, 1965, but until this month they were scattered through "many thousands of pages" of information, according to Marion Johnson, the archivist in charge of the Warren Commission records.

Mr. Johnson pulled the declassified information about Mr. Ferrie together in response to requests by reporters for New Orleans newspapers.

Mr. Ferrie is mentioned on pages 14, 29, 30 and 31 of Volume 8 of the Warren Commission hearings. The last three pages contain testimony by a detective, Frederick S. O'Sullivan, of the New Orleans Police Vice Squad. He was also in the Civil Air Patrol headed by Mr. Ferrie.

Mr. O'Sullivan told the Warren Commission that he knew of no connection between Oswald and Mr. Ferrie. He also said that he had inspected Mr. Ferrie's airplane at New Orleans Airport shortly after the assassination and had found it "not in flyable condition" because its tires were flat and instruments were missing.

Mr. Ferrie was once interrogated as a possible "getaway pilot" for a Presidential assassin.

Another member of the air patrol unit, who knew Oswald, told the Warren Commission he knew of no link between the President's killer and Ferrie. It is not clear whether any of their testimony was based on the documents that came to light today.